



**US Army Corps
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Walla Walla District

News Release

News Release 07-110

Contact: Public Affairs Office

Date: Dec. 14, 2007

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Walla Walla District power team supporting Kansas EOC and FEMA

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers power team from Walla Walla District is now also supporting the state emergency operations center (EOC) in Topeka, Kansas, the team's action officer reported today.

Walla Walla District sent a 10-member emergency power team to Kansas City, Kan., Tuesday, to assist FEMA Region VII efforts to restore power to tens of thousands of people hit by ice storms earlier this week.

More than 100,000 Kansas power customers are still without electricity today in the aftermath of record ice storms. The weather forecast calls for snow storms over the weekend, according to the National Weather Service.

All members of Walla Walla District's power team arrived in Kansas City by Wednesday morning to provide emergency power technical assistance at FEMA's Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) there. On Thursday, half of the team was sent to augment the state EOC in Topeka.

Power Team Action Officer Dave Coleman (operations manager at Ice Harbor Lock and Dam near Burbank, Wash.) said the team's activities in Kansas is not typical of past power team deployments. During 2005 hurricane recovery efforts in the Gulf region, the power team did much of the delivery and installation of emergency generators. This mission calls for the power team to support state and FEMA operations in more of a coordination and technical-advisory role.

"We're working with the state to insure proper generator match before the state releases a generator. In the past two days, the team has provided technical assistance and installation trouble-shooting for more than 30 emergency generators sent out to power public facilities all across Kansas," said Coleman. "When you look at a map of where the generators have been placed, the dots make a line all across the state. Our team members are also making some installation inspections to ensure safe generator operations."

Emergency management officials in Walla Walla anticipate the team will support emergency operations in Kansas for about one to two weeks.

Walla Walla District's emergency power team consists of an action officer, a mission manager, two mission specialists, a mission liaison, two logistics specialists, a contract specialist and two power quality assurance specialists. The all-volunteer team can provide backup electrical power generation anywhere an emergency makes the service needed. Team members agree to be in an on-call status, ready to deploy on short-notice when disaster strikes.

Team members include four from the Walla Walla District Headquarters in Walla Walla, Wash.; two from Ice Harbor Lock and Dam near Burbank, Wash.; two from Little Goose Lock and Dam, near Starbuck, Wash.; one from Lower Granite Natural Resources Management Office, in Clarkston, Wash.; and one from McNary Lock and Dam, near Umatilla, Ore.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: The names of power team members are released only with members' permission until their mission is complete and they have arrived safely home. This release policy is for their protection -- we don't want to unnecessarily place their property and/or family at greater risk of criminal activity by announcing they are gone for an extended period of time.

PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT

www.nwww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/pa/NR/NR07_files/NR07.htm

CLICK on "photographs" link

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